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CHAMPLAIN'S EXPEDITIONS TO NORTHERN  
AND WESTERN NEW-YORK, 1609, 1615.





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CHAMPLAIN'S EXPEDITIONS

TO

Northern and Western New York.

1609 — 1615.





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## CHAMPLAIN'S EXPEDITIONS.

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[Voyages de la Nouv: France, par le Sr. de Champlain; Paris, M.DC.XXXII.]

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### INTO NORTHERN NEW-YORK; ANNO 1609.

*Departure from the Sault of the Iroquois River; Description of a Great Lake; Rencountre with the enemies on said Lake and the mode and conduct observed in going to attack the Iroquois.*

I LEFT the Rapid<sup>1</sup> of the said River of the Iroquois on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July. (1609.) All the Savages began carrying their canoes, arms and traps over land about a league and a half, to avoid the current and force of the Rapid. This was quickly effected.

They immediately launched the canoes into the water, two men in each with their baggage, whilst one of the men went by land about a league and a half, which was the probable extent of said Rapid, tho' not so violent as at the foot, except at some points where rocks obstructed the River which is no more than three to four hundred paces wide. After the Rapid was passed, though not without trouble, all the Indians who had gone by land over a pretty good road and level country, though covered with timber, re-embarked in their canoes. My men were also on land and I on the water in a canoe. They reviewed all their force and found 24 canoes with 60 men. After having completed their review, we continued our journey as far as an Island three leagues long, covered with the finest pines I ever beheld. They hunted and caught some wild animals there. Passing thence about three leagues farther on, we camped in order to rest for the night.

<sup>1</sup> Now, Chambly, Lower Canada.

Forthwith some began to cut down timber ; others to pull off bark to cover lodges to shelter them ; others to fall large trees with which to barricade their lodges on the shore. They know so well how to construct these barricades, that five hundred of their enemies would find considerable difficulty in forcing them in less than two hours, without great loss. They do not fortify the side of the river along which their canoes are ranged, so as to be able to embark should occasion require.

After they had camped, they despatched three canoes with nine good men, as is their custom at all their encampments, to reconnoitre within two or three leagues, if they see anything. After which they retire. They depend the whole night on the exploration of the van guard, which is a bad habit of theirs. For sometimes their enemies surprize them asleep, and kill them without having an opportunity of recovering their feet to defend themselves.

Remarking that, I remonstrated with them against the error they committed ; told them to watch, as they saw us do, all night, and to have out-posts to spy and see if they could perceive anything ; and not to live in that style, like cattle. They told me they couldn't watch, and that they laboured all day hunting. So that, when they go to war they divide their force into three—to wit—one party, scattered in divers places, hunting ; another forms the main body, which is always under arms ; and another party as a van guard, to scout along the river and see whether they will not discover some trail or mark indicating the passage of friends or enemies. This they ascertain by certain marks the chiefs of one nation give to those of another, which are not always alike ; notifying each other from time to time when they alter any. By this means they recognize whether those who have passed are friends or enemies. The hunters never hunt in advance of the main body or the scouts, so as not to create any alarm or disorder ; but in the rear and in the direction where they do not apprehend enemies. They thus continue until they are two or three days journey from the foe, when they advance stealthily by night, all in a body, except the scouts, and retire by day into the picket fort where they repose, without wandering abroad, making any noise or building a fire, even for



cooking during that time, so as not to be discovered, should their enemies happen to pass. The only fire they make is, to smoke. They eat dried Indian meal which they steep in water like porridge. They prepare this meal for use when they are pinched, and when they are near the enemy, or when retreating; after their attacks they do not amuse themselves hunting, retreating precipitately.

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We left next day, continuing our route along the river as far as the mouth of the Lake<sup>1</sup>. Here are a number of beautiful, but low Islands filled with very fine woods and prairies, a quantity of game and wild animals, such as stags, deer, fawns, roebucks, bears and other sorts of animals that come from the main land to the said islands. We caught a quantity of them. There is also quite a number of Beavers, as well in the river as in several other streams which fall into it. These parts, though agreeable, are not inhabited by any Indians, in consequence of their wars. They retire from the rivers as far as possible, deep into the country, in order not to be so soon discovered.

Next day we entered the Lake, which is of considerable extent; some 50 or 60 leagues, where I saw 4 beautiful islands 10. 12. and 15 leagues in length, formerly inhabited, as well as the Iroquois river, by Indians, but abandoned since they have been at war the one with the other. Several rivers, also, discharge into the lake, surrounded by a number of fine trees similar to those we have in France, with a quantity of vines handsomer than any I ever saw; a great many chestnuts, and I had not yet seen except the margin of the Lake, where there is a large abundance of fish of divers species. Among the rest there is one called by the Indians of the country *Chaousarou*, of divers lengths. The largest I was informed by the people, are of eight to ten feet. I saw one of 5, as thick as a thigh, with a head as big as two fists, with jaws two feet and a half long, and a double set of very sharp and dangerous teeth. The form of the body resembles that of the pike, and it is armed with scales that a thrust of a poniard cannot pierce; and is of a silver grey

<sup>1</sup> Lake Champlain.

colour. The point of the snout is like that of a hog. This fish makes war on all others in the lakes and rivers<sup>1</sup> and possesses, as those people assure me, a wonderful instinct; which is, that when it wants to catch any birds, it goes among the rushes or reeds, bordering the lake in many places, keeping the beak out of the water without budging, so that when the birds perch on the beak, imagining it a limb of a tree, it is so subtle that closing the jaws which it keeps half open, it draws the birds under water by the feet. The Indians gave me a head of it, which they prize highly, saying, when they have a headache they let blood with the teeth of this fish at the seat of the pain which immediately goes away.

Continuing our route along the west side of the Lake, contemplating the country, I saw on the east side very high mountains capped with Snow. I asked the Indians if those parts were inhabited? They answered me, Yes, and that they were Iroquois, and that there were in those parts beautiful vallies, and fields fertile in corn as good as I had ever eaten in the country, with an infinitude of other fruits, and that the Lake extended close to the mountains, which were, according to my judgment, 15 leagues from us. I saw others, to the South, not less high than the former; only, that they were without snow. The Indians told me it was there we were to go to meet their enemies, and that they were thickly inhabited, & that we must pass by a waterfall<sup>2</sup> which I afterwards saw, and thence enter another lake<sup>3</sup> three or four leagues long, and having arrived at its head, there were 4 leagues overland to be travelled to pass to a river<sup>4</sup> which flows towards the coast of the Almouchiquois, tending towards that of the Almouchiquois<sup>5</sup>, and that they were only

1 Sagard mentions in his *Grand Voyage du Pays des Hurons*; Paris 1632, having seen one of these fish in the Huron Country and describes it in the same terms as Champlain. Compare the above description with that of the Garfish and *Bony Pike*, in Nat. Hist. of N: York: Part III. Reptiles and Amphibia: pp. 227 and 271, and corresponding Plates. Prof: Agassiz mentions a similar fish in a recent work on the Natural History of the Upper Lakes.

2 Ticonderoga. 3 Lake George. 4 Hudson's River. 5 The Indians west of Kennebec River, beginning at Chouacoet, (Saco) and thence Westwardly as far as Cape Cod were called Almouchiquois. GALLATIN'S Synopsis of the Indian Tribes, in Trans: of the Am: Antiq: Soc: ii. 31. •



two days going there in their canoes, as I understood since from some prisoners we took, who, by means of some Algonquin interpreters, who were acquainted with the Iroquois language, conversed freely with me about all they had noticed.

Now, on coming within about two or three days journey of the enemy's quarters, we travelled only by night and rested by day. Nevertheless, they never omitted their usual superstitions to ascertain whether their enterprise would be successful, and often asked me whether I had dreamed and seen their enemies. I answered, no; and encouraged them and gave them good hopes. Night fell, and we continued our journey until morning when we withdrew into the picket fort to pass the remainder of the day there. About ten or eleven o'clock I lay down after having walked some time around our quarters, and falling asleep, I thought I beheld our enemies, the Iroquois, drowning within sight of us in the Lake near a mountain; and being desirous to save them, that our Savage allies told me that I must let them all perish as they were good for nothing. On awaking, they did not omit, as usual to ask me, if I had any dream? I did tell them, in fact, what I had dreamed. It gained such credit among them that they no longer doubted but they should meet with success.

At nightfall we embarked in our Canoes to continue our journey, and as we advanced very softly and noiselessly, we encountered a war party of Iroquois, on the twenty ninth of the month, about ten o'clock at night, at the point of a Cape which juts into the Lake on the West side. They and we began to shout, each seizing his arms. We withdrew towards the water and the Iroquois repaired on shore, and arranged all their canoes, the one beside the other, and began to hew down trees with villainous axes, which they sometimes got in war, and others of stone, and fortified themselves very securely.

Our party, likewise, kept their canoes arranged the one alongside the other, tied to poles so as not to run adrift, in order to fight alltogether should need be. We were on the water about an arrow-shot from their barricades.

When they were armed and in order, they sent two canoes from the fleet to know if their enemies wished to fight, who an-

swered they desired nothing else ; but that just then, there was not much light, and that we must wait for day to distinguish each other, and that they would give us battle at sun rise. This was agreed to by our party. Meanwhile the whole night was spent in dancing and singing, as well on one side as on the other, mingled with an infinitude of insults and other taunts, such as the little courage they had ; how powerless their resistance against their arms, and that when day would break they should experience this to their ruin. Ours, likewise, did not fail in repartee ; telling them they should witness the effects of arms they had never seen before ; and a multitude of other speeches, as is usual at a seige of a town. After the one and the other had sung, danced and parliamented enough, day broke. My companions and I were always concealed, for fear the enemy should see us preparing our arms the best we could, being however separated, each in one of the canoes belonging to the savage *Montagnars*<sup>1</sup>. After being equipped with light armour we took each an arquebus and went ashore. I saw the enemy leave their barricade ; they were about 200 men, of strong and robust appearance, who were coming slowly towards us, with a gravity and assurance which greatly pleased me, led on by three Chiefs. Our's were marching in similar order, and told me that those who bore three lofty plumes were the Chiefs, and that there were but these three and they were to be recognized by those plumes, which were considerably larger than those of their companions, and that I must do all I could to kill them. I promised to do what I could, and that I was very sorry they could not clearly understand me, so as to give them the order and plan of attacking their enemies, as we should indubitably defeat them all ;

1 At the first settlement of Canada, all the St Lawrence Indians living below and some distance above Quebec were designated by the name of Montagnars or Montagnés. This appellation was derived from a range of hills or mountains which, extending Northwesterly from Cape Tourmente (five miles below Quebec) divides the rivers that fall above that Cape into the St Lawrence, the Ottawa, and Lake Superior, from those, first of the Saguenay, and afterwards of the Hudson's bay . . . . . The great trading place of the Montagnars was Tadoussac, at the mouth of the river Saguenay. . . . . The name (Montagnars) from the identity of language, was soon after extended to all the St Lawrence Indians, as high up as Montreal. GALLATIN, in Trans. of the Am: Antiq. Soc. ii., 24.



but there was no help for that ; that I was very glad to encourage them and to manifest to them my good will when we should be engaged.

The moment we landed they began to run about two hundred paces towards their enemies who stood firm, and had not yet perceived my companions, who went into the bush with some savages. Our's commenced calling me in a loud voice, and making way for me opened in two, and placed me at their head, marching about 20 paces in advance, until I was within 30 paces of the enemy. The moment they saw me, they halted gazing at me and I at them. When I saw them preparing to shoot at us, I raised my arquebus, and aiming directly at one of the three Chiefs, two of them fell to the ground by this shot and one of their companions received a wound of which he died afterwards. I had put 4 balls in my arquebus. Our's, on witnessing a shot so favorable for them, set up such tremendous shouts that thunder could not have been heard ; and yet, there was no lack of arrows on one side and the other. The Iroquois were greatly astonished seeing two men killed so instantaneously, notwithstanding they were provided with arrow-proof armour woven of cotton-thread and wood ; this frightened them very much. Whilst I was re-loading, one of my companions in the bush fired a shot, which so astonished them anew, seeing their Chiefs slain, that they lost courage, took to flight and abandoned the field and their fort, hiding themselves in the depths of the forest, whither pursuing them, I killed some others. Our savages also killed several of them and took ten or twelve prisoners. The rest carried off the wounded. Fifteen or sixteen of ours were wounded by arrows ; they were promptly cured.

After having gained the victory, they amused themselves plundering Indian corn and meal from the enemy ; also their arms which they had thrown away in order to run the better. And having feasted, danced and sung, we returned three hours afterwards with the prisoners.

The place where this battle was fought is in 43 degrees some minutes latitude, and I named it Lake Champlain.<sup>1</sup>

1. The reference in Champlain's map locates this engagement between Lake George and Crown Point ; probably in what is now the town of Ticonderoga, Essex Co.

## INTO WESTERN NEW YORK : ANNO 1615.

[Six years after the occurrences above noted, Champlain proceeded to the Upper Waters of the Ottawa River ; thence crossed over to Lake Nipissing, and having discovered the Huron Lake, which he called *La Mer douce*, or the Fresh Water Sea, he joined some Hurons in an expedition against one of the Five Nations, south of Lake Ontario, the particulars of which are as follow:]

*Arrival at Cahiague ; Description of the Beauty of the Country ; Nature of the Indians who dwell there, and the Inconveniences We experienced.*

On the seventeenth day of August I arrived at Cahiague<sup>1</sup>, where I was received with great joy and gratitude by all the Indians of the Country. They had intelligence that a certain Nation of their allies with whom the Iroquois were at war and who resided three good days journey higher up (*plus haut*) than the Entouhonorons, wished to assist this expedition with five hundred good men, and enter into alliance and amity with us, having a great desire to see us, and that we should wage war all together ; and they testified their satisfaction at being acquainted with us ; and I, in like manner, for having obtained this opportunity to satisfy the desire, I had, of learning something about that country. That Nation is very warlike according to the representation of the Attigouotans<sup>2</sup>. They are only three villages in the midst of more than twenty others against which they wage war, not being able to receive assistance from their friends, especially as they must pass through the country of the Chouontouaroüon which is very populous, or else go a great way around.

Having arrived at this village, it suited me to sojourn there whilst waiting until the Warriors should come in from the circumjacent villages, then to leave it as soon as possible. During this interval, it was a continual series of feasting and dancing, through joy for seeing us so determined to assist them in their war, and as a guarantee already of victory.

1 Stated to be in  $44\frac{1}{2}$  deg. north ; probably between Lake Simcoe & the Georgian bay of Lake Huron, in Western Canada. It was at the time the Huron Country.

2 One of the five confederated tribes of the Wyandot, or Huron Nation ; it was composed of twelve villages and gave its name to Lake Huron which was called, at the time of its discovery by Champlain, Lake Attigouatan.



On the assembling of the major part of our forces, we set out from the village on the first day of September, and passed along the border of a very small lake, distant three leagues from the village where they take great quantities of fish which they preserve for winter. There is another Lake adjoining, 26 leagues in circumference, descending into the smaller by a channel where a great catch of said fish is taken by means of a number of stakes, which almost close the passage, leaving only small openings over which they place their nets to catch the fish. These two lakes disembogue into the Fresh Sea [Lake Huron.] We sojourned a while at this place to wait for the rest of our Indians, where being all assembled with their arms, meal, and necessaries, consultation was had for the selection of the most resolute men of the troop, to carry advice of our departure to those who were to assist & join us with five hundred men, in order that we may meet at the same time, before the enemy's fort. This deliberation adopted, they despatched two canoes, with twelve of the most robust Indians, and one of our interpreters, who requested of me to make the voyage. This I willingly permitted him as he was so disposed, and would see the country by that means and acquire a knowledge of the people who inhabit it. The danger was not trifling inasmuch as they had to pass through the midst of enemies. We continued our route towards the enemy, and made about five or six leagues through the Lakes, whence the savages carried the canoes about ten leagues over land and came to another Lake extending about six or seven leagues in length, and three in width. A river issues from this which discharges into the Great Lake of the Entouhonorons<sup>1</sup>. And having traversed this Lake, we passed a water fall, proceeding always down along the course of said river, about sixty four leagues, which is the entrance of the said valley of the Entouhonorons, and passed by land five rapids (*sauts*), some four or five leagues long, where there are several lakes of pretty considerable extent; the said river which flows between them also abounds with good fish,

1 Lake Ontario, presumed to have been so called by the Hurons from the fact of their having to cross it to get to the Antonoronons, or Senecas, who lived on the South side of it.

and all this country is very fine and agreeable. In several places along the banks, the trees would seem to have been planted for ornament. All this country was formerly inhabited by Savages, who have since been constrained to abandon it, through fear of their enemies. Vines and nuts are in great quantities, and grapes come to maturity there, but they leave always a sharp sour taste, which proceeds from want of cultivation ; but those that have been cultivated in these parts are of pretty good flavour.

\*            \*            \*            \*            \*            \*

We continued along the border of the Lake of the Entouhonorons, always hunting as above mentioned ; being there, we crossed over at one of the extremities, tending Eastward, which is the beginning (*l'entrée*) of the river Saint Lawrence, in the parallel of forty-three degrees of Latitude. There are some beautiful and very large Islands in this passage. We made about fourteen leagues to cross to the other side of the Lake, proceeding southward, towards the enemy's country. The Indians concealed all their canoes in the woods, near the bank. We travelled by land about 4 leagues over a sandy plain, where I observed a very pleasing and fine country, watered by numerous small streams, and two little rivers which empty into said Lake, and a number of ponds and prairies, where there was an infinite quantity of game, a great many vines and fine trees, vast number of chestnuts, the fruit of which was yet in the shell. It is quite small, but well flavored.

All the canoes being thus concealed, we left the bank of the Lake, which is 80 leagues long and 25 wide. It is inhabited for the greater part by Savages, along the sides of the streams, and we continued our journey overland some 25 to 30 leagues. In the course of four days, we traversed a number of streams and one river issuing from a lake which empties into that of the Entouhonorons. This lake is 25 to 30 leagues in circumference, with many beautiful Islands, and is the Iroquois fishing ground, fish being in abundance there.

The 9<sup>th</sup> of October ; Our Indians going out scouting, encountered eleven Savages whom they took prisoners ; to wit, 4 women, three boys, one girl and three men, who were going fishing,



four leagues distant from the enemy's fort. Now is to be noted that one of the Chiefs seeing these prisoners, cut the finger off one of those poor women, as the commencement of their usual tortures. Whereupon I interferred, and censured the Iroquet Captain, representing to him that a Warrior, as he called himself, was not in the habit of acting cruelly towards women, who have no defence but their tears and who, by reason of their helplessness and feebleness, ought to be treated with humanity. That on the contrary this act would be supposed to proceed from a vile and brutal courage, and that if he committed any more of those cruelties, he would not encourage me to assist them, nor to favor their war. Whereupon he replied, that their enemies treated them in the same manner. But since such customs displeased me, he would not act so any more to women, but exclusively to men.

Next day, at three o'clock in the afternoon we arrived before the enemy's fort, where the Savages had some skirmishes, the one against the other, though it was not our design to discover ourselves until the morrow : But the impatience of our Savages would not brook this, as well through the desire they felt to see us fire on their enemies, as to liberate some of their men who had ventured too far. Then I advanced and presented myself, but with the few men I had ; nevertheless I shewed them what they never saw nor heard before. For as soon as they saw us, and heard the reports of the Arquebus, and the balls whistling about their ears, they retired promptly within their Fort, carrying off their wounded and dead ; and we retreated in like manner to our main body, with five or six of our wounded, one of whom died.

This being done, we retired within gun shot, beyond the view of the enemy, contrary, however, to my advice, and to what they had promised me. Which moved me to make use of and express to them pretty rude and angry words, in order to incite them to their duty, foreseeing, that if every thing went according to their fantasy, and council, nothing but misfortune would result, to their ruin and destruction. Nevertheless, I failed not to send to them and to propose means necessary to be used to overcome their enemies ; which was, to construct a moveable

tower (*cavalier*) of timber to overlook their pickets, whereupon I should post four or five of our Arquebusseers, who would fire over the palisades and galleries, which were well supplied with stones, and by this means, the enemy who annoyed us from their galleries would be dislodged ; and in the mean time we should give orders for some boards to form a species of parapet to cover and protect our men from the arrows and stones. These things, namely, the tower and parapets could be moved by main force ; and one was made in such a way that water could not extinguish the fire to be applied to the front of the fort ; and those on the tower would do their duty with some Arquebusseers posted there, and thus acting, we should so defend ourselves that they could not approach to extinguish the fire, that we should apply to their pickets. Approving this, they began next morning, to construct and prepare said tower and parapets ; and made such progress that these were finished in less than four hours. They were expecting the arrival this day of the five hundred men that had been promised, which was however doubtful ; not being at the rendez-vous, as directed and as they had promised, our Savages were much afflicted. But seeing that they were numerous enough to capture the forts, and for my part, considering delay to be always prejudicial, at least in most cases, I urged them to attack said fort, representing that the enemy discovering their strength and the effect of our arms, which pierced what was arrow proof, would barricade and shelter themselves, which indeed, they did very well. For their village was enclosed with strong quadruple palisades of large timber, thirty feet high, interlocked the one with the other, with an interval of not more than half a foot between them ; with galleries in the form of parapets, defended with double pieces of timber, proof against our Arquebuses, and on one side they had a pond with a never failing supply of water, from which proceeded a number of gutters which they had laid along the intermediate space, throwing the water without, and rendered it effectual inside, for the purpose of extinguishing fire.

Such was their mode of fortification and defence, which was much stronger than the villages of the Attigouatans [Hurons] and others.



We advanced, then, to attack the village, causing our tower to be carried by two hundred of our strongest men. They placed it within a pike's length in front and I posted on it four Arquebuseers, well sheltered from any arrows and stones that might have been shot at them. Nevertheless, the enemy did not, for all that, cease discharging and throwing a great number of arrows and stones over their pickets. But the multitude of Arquebus shots that were fired, constrained them to vacate and abandon their galleries. But according as the tower was moved, instead of bringing the parapets as ordered and that on which we were to have placed the fire, they abandoned them and commenced to yell against their enemies, shooting arrows within the fort, which, in my opinion, did not do much execution. They are very excusable, for they are not soldiers, and are moreover averse to discipline or correction and do only what they like. Wherefore, one inconsiderately applied the fire to the wrong side of the fort, or to leeward, so that it produced no effect. On the fire being kindled, the most of the savages began to set wood against the pickets but in such small quantities, that the fire did not much good. The disorder that supervened was in consequence so great, that it was impossible to hear. In vain I cried to them and remonstrated as well as I was able against the imminent danger to which they exposed themselves by their stupidity. They heard nothing in consequence of the violent noise they made. Seeing that by shouting I was only splitting my skull, and that my remonstrances were in vain and that this disorder was irremediable, I resolved to do what was in my power with my men, and fire on those we could discover or perceive. Yet, the enemy profited by our disorder. They went to the water and discharged it in such abundance, that rivers, it may be said, spouted from their gutters, so that the fire was extinguished in less than no time, and they continued to pour arrows on us like hail. Those on the tower killed and wounded a great many.

This engagement lasted about three hours. Two of our chiefs and leaders were wounded ; to wit, one called Ochateguain ; the other Orani, and about fifteen individuals besides. The rest seeing their folks, and some of their chiefs wounded, began to

talk of retreating, without fighting any more, expecting the five hundred men whose arrival was not far off; and so they withdrew, having accomplished nothing save this disorderly splutter. However, the chiefs have no absolute control of their companions who follow their whim, and act their pleasure, which is the cause of their disorder and ruins all their affairs. In having taken a resolution, any poor devil can make them violate it and change their plan. Thus, the one with the other, they effect nothing as may be seen by this expedition.<sup>1</sup>

Having received two wounds from arrows, one in the leg and the other in the knee, which sorely incommoded me, we withdrew into our fort. Being all assembled there, I remonstrated with them several times on account of the disorder that had occurred. But all my talk was in vain; they said many of their men had been wounded and I also, and that it would be very inconvenient and fatiguing to carry them, on the retreat; that there was no means of returning again to the enemy as I had proposed to them; but that they would willingly wait four days more for the five hundred men that were expected, on whose arrival they would renew the effort against the enemy, and execute what I had told them, better than they had already done. It was necessary to stop there, to my great regret. Here is represented the manner in which they fortify their towns, and by this engraving it may be understood and seen that those of friends and enemies are similarly fortified.

Next day blew a very strong and violent wind which lasted two days, particularly favorable for setting the enemy's fort in a blaze, which I strongly urged on them. But fearing a failure, and moreover representing themselves as wounded, they would not do any thing.

We remained encamped until the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month. Several skirmishes occurred during that time between the enemy and our people who became oftenest engaged with them rather by their imprudence than through want of courage; and I can assure you, that every time they made a charge, we were obliged

1 The point at which the above engagement took place is marked on the annexed map. It seems to have been fought in the neighborhood of lake Canandaigua.



to extricate them from the difficulty, not being able to extricate themselves except by the help of our arquebuses which the enemy dreaded and greatly feared. For as soon as they perceived one of our Arquebuseers, they immediately retreated, telling us by way of persuasion not to meddle with their fights, and that their enemies had very little courage to require our assistance ; with many other such like discourses.

Seeing that the five hundred men were not coming, they proposed to depart and retreat at once, and began to make certain litters to convey their wounded, who are put in them, tumbled in a heap, doubled and strapped in such a way that it is impossible to stir ; less than an infant in its swaddling clothes ; not without considerable pain, as I can certify, having been carried several days on the back of one of our Indians, thus tied and bound, so that I lost all patience. As soon as I had strength to bear my weight, I got out of this prison, or to speak plainer out of hell.

The enemy pursued us about the distance of half a league, endeavoring to catch some of the rear guard. But their labor was in vain and they retired.

All I remarked in their wars, is, that they retreat in good order ; placing all their wounded and old people in their centre, they being in front, on the wings and in the rear, well armed and arranged in such wise according to order, until they are in a place of safety, without breaking their line. Their retreat was very tedious, being from 25 to 30 leagues, which greatly fatigued the wounded and those who carried them, though they relieved each other from time to time.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of said month some snow fell which melted rapidly. It was accompanied by a strong wind that greatly annoyed us. Nevertheless we contrived to get to the borders of the lake of the Entouhonorons and at the place where we had concealed our canoes which we found safe ; for we feared lest the enemy might have broken them.

*Table of Remarkable Places in Champlain's Map.*

- A. Bay of Islands.
- B. Calesme.
- C. Bay Trepasséz.
- D. Cape Levy.
- E. Cape Bay Harbour where they fish for Cod.
- F. The North East & South West Coast of Newfoundland which is very well known.
- G. The Northern passage at the 52d degree.
- H. St Paul's Island, near Cape St Lawrence.
- I. Sasinou Island, between Mont Desert islands and Crow Islands.
- K. Montreal Island at Sault Saint Louis, about eight or nine leagues in circumference.
- L. River Jeannin.
- M. River St. Antoine.
- N. Sort of Salt Water which discharges into the Sea, with flux & reflux, considerable fish & cockles and oysters nowhere very palatable.
- P. Shell Island, at the entrance of the River St Croix ; good fishing.
- Q. Fishing Islands.
- R. Lake Soissons; [now Lake of the Two Mountains, called Soissons by Champlain in honor of his patron Charles de Bourbon, Count de Soissons.]
- S. Gulf Bay.
- T. Mount Desert Island, very lofty.
- V. St. Barnabé Island in the Grand River, near Bic.
- X. Lesquemain where there is a little river abounding in Salmon & Trout; alongside this is a little rocky islet where there was formerly a Whale fishery; [below Tadoussac.]
- Y. Larks' point (*Aux Allouettes*) [at the mouth of the Saguenay River] where in the month of September there is an inconceivable number of them as of other sorts of game and shell fish.
- Z. Hares Island, thus named from some of them having been caught there when it was first discovered
- 2. Lesquille harbour, which is dry at low water; there are two streams there that come from the mountains. [There is a river of this name at Annapolis.]
- 3. Salmon harbour, dry at low water; there are two islets full, at the proper season, of strawberries, raspberries & blueberries; near this place is a good harbour for ships, and within the harbour are two small streams.
- 4. Platte River, coming from the mountains is navigable for canoes; this place dries very far towards the water and at the Traverse is good anchorage for ships.
- 5. Isle aux Coudres, a league and a half long, where there are quantities of hares, partridges and other game in season. At the south west point are meadows, and a number of shoals towards the water. There is an anchorage for ships between said Island and the north shore.
- 6. Cape Torment, one league from which Sieur de Champlain had erected a Settlement which was burned by the English in the year 1628; near this place is Cape Brulé, between which and the Isle aux Coudres is a chan-



nel of 8. 10. & 12 fathoms of water. On the South shore are mud and rocks & on the North, high land &c

7. The Island of Orleans, six leagues long; very beautiful and pleasing on account of the diversity of timber, meadows & vines in some parts, with nut-trees. The west end of this island is called Cape Condé.
8. Falls of Montmorency, twenty fathoms high; formed by a River which comes from the mountains and empties itself into the River St Lawrence a league & a half below Quebec.
9. St Charles River, which rises in Lake St. Joseph; very beautiful & agreeable, with meadows at low water; Vessels at high water can go as far as the first Rapid. On this river are built the churches and establishments of the Revd. Jesuit and Recollet Fathers. Game abounds there in Spring and Fall.
10. Etchemins River, by which the Indians go to Quinebequi, crossing the country with difficulty on account of Rapids and shallow Water. Sieur Champlain had this discovery made in 1628, and there was found an Indian tribe within 7 days journey of Quebec, called the Abenaki-oit.
11. Champlain River, near that of Batisquan, north east of Grondines.
12. Indian River. [Trois Pistoles.]
13. Green Island, five or six leagues from Tadoussac.
14. Isle de Chasse.
15. Batisquan River, very agreeable and full of fish.
16. Grondines and some adjoining Islands; good place for fishing and hunting.
17. Sturgeon and Salmon River, where there is, two leagues from St Croix, a waterfall 15 to 20 feet high, which forms a sort of little pond that flows into the Great River St Lawrence.
18. St Eloy Island; there is a passage between this Island and the north shore.
19. Lake St Peter, very fine; has three fathoms of water; full of fish; environed by hills and flatlands with interval meadows, and several small streams and rivers which empty into it.
20. River du Gast, [the Nicolet?] very pleasing, though shallow.
21. River St Antoine.
23. Yroquois River, [Richelieu] very beautiful, with several Islands and meadows. It flows from Lake Champlain, which is five or six days journey in length; abounding in fish and game of various sorts; vines, hickory, plum trees, chestnuts are very common in many parts; there are also meadows and beautiful Islands in said Lake. A large and small rapid must be passed to reach it.
24. Falls of the Saguenay river, 50 leagues from Tadoussac; it falls over ten or twelve fathoms high.
25. Great Fall, which descends some 15 feet in height among a great number of Islands. It is half a league in length and three leagues wide.
26. Mouton harbour [Nova Scotia]
27. Canseau bay.
28. Cape Baturier, at St Johns' [now Pr. Edward's] Island.
29. River by which people go to the French Bay, [of Fundy.]
30. Elk hunting.
31. Cape Richelieu, east of the Island of Orleans.
32. Little Bank near the Island of Cape Breton.
33. River *des Puans*, which comes from a Lake where there is a mine of red copper.

34. Gaston Rapid [Sault St Mary] nearly 2 leagues in width which falls into the *Mer douce* coming from another very large Lake [Superior], which and the *Mer douce* contain according to the report of Indians, 30 days journey in canoes.

*Returning to the Gulf of St Lawrence and Coast of Acadie.*

35. Gaspey River.  
 36. Chaleur River.  
 37. Several Islands near Miscou, as well as Miscou harbour between two islands.  
 38. Cape of the Island St John, [Prince Edward]  
 39. Rossignol Harbour [N. S.]  
 40. Platte River. [near Halifax N. S.]  
 41. Cape Naigré harbour. \* There was a French post in the Bay of said Cape, commanded by Sieur de la Tour, which he named Port Latour, where the Revd. Recollets Fathers resided in the year 1630.  
 42. Cape Sable Bay  
 43. Seine bay  
 44. Bay Courante, where there is a number of Islands abounding with game, good fishing, and excellent harbours for vessels. [Barrington Harbour, N. S.]  
 45. Cape Fourchu harbour, very agreeable, but tis almost entirely bare at low water. Contiguous to this place are a number of Islands and good hunting.  
 47. Long Island gut, [near bay of Fundy] There is good cod fishing here.  
 48. Cape of the two Bays. [Chiegnecto Bay, N. S.]  
 49. Port des Mines where at low water are found in the rocks along the Coast small pieces of very pure copper.  
 50. Bacchus Island, very pleasing, where there are quantities of vines, nut, plum and other trees.  
 51. Islands near the mouth of the River Chouacoet. [Saco?]  
 52. Very lofty islands to the number of 3 a 4 at the entrance of Long Bay, and 2 a 3 leagues from land.  
 53. Bay of Islands, where there are places suitable for harboring vessels; the country is very good and peopled by a number of savages who cultivate the soil; in these places are pines, vines and hickory. [Boston Harbor.]  
 54. The Suspicious Islands about a league seaward.  
 55. Long Bay.  
 56. The Seven Islands.  
 57. Eschemins River.

*The Virginias where the English are settled  
 from 36 to 37 degrees of Latitude.*

*About 36 or 37 years ago Capttains  
 Ribault and Laudonnière  
 had discovered and made  
 a settlement on the  
 coast adjoining  
 Florida.*



58. Several rivers of the Virginias which discharge into the Gulf.
59. The coast of a very fine country inhabited by Savages who cultivate it.
60. Point Comfort.
61. Immestan (James town.)
62. Chesapeaq Bay.
63. Bedabedec; [Pemaquid ?] the west coast of the river of Pemetegoet.  
[Penobscot.]
64. Beautiful Prairies
65. The Place in Lake Champlain, where the Yroquois were defeated by said  
Sieur Champlain, in the year 1606.
66. Little Lake by which we go to the Yroquois after passing that of Champlain.
67. Bay des Trepasséz, Newfoundland.
68. Chappeau Rouge.
69. Bay du Sainte Esprit. [Bay of Fortune.]
70. The Virgins.
71. Port Breton, near Cape St. Lawrence in Cape Breton Island.
72. The Bergeronnettes, three leagues below Tadoussac.
73. Cape d'Espoir near Percée Island. [Now sometimes printed Cape Despair.]
74. Forillon at Gaspé point.
75. Island of Mont-real at Sault St. Louis in the River Saint Lawrence.
76. River des Prairies, which flows from a lake at Sault St. Louis, where there  
are two Islands, of which that of Mont-real is one. Trade was carried  
on with the Indians there several years.
77. Chaudière Rapid on the river of the Algommequins [Ottawa] which has a  
fall of 18 feet high; it runs through rocks where it makes a great roar.
78. Lake of Nibachis, an Indian Chief who resides there and cultivates a little  
patch of ground where he plants Indian corn.
79. Eleven lakes, one near the other, containing 1, 2 and 3 leagues; abounding  
in fish and game. The Indians sometimes take this route to avoid the  
Calumet Rapid, which is very dangerous. A portion of these places is  
loaded with pines which discharge a quantity of resin.
80. Rapid of Calumet rock which is like alabaster.
81. Island of Tesouac, an Algonkin Chief where the Indians pay tribute to be  
allowed to pass to Quebec.
82. Tesouac river where there are five rapids to pass.
83. River by which several Indians go to the sea north of the Saguenay, and to  
Three Rivers, making some portage overland.
84. Lakes by which people go to the North Sea.
85. River which flows to the North Sea.
86. Country of the Hurons, so called by the French, where there are a number  
of tribes and 17 villages inclosed with triple palisades of wood, with  
galleries all around in form of parapet, to defend themselves from their  
enemies. This country is in latitude 44 degrees and a half, very good,  
and the land is cultivated by the Indians.
87. Portage of a league, over which canoes are carried.
88. River which discharges into the *Mer douce*.
89. Village enclosed by 4 pallisades, where Sieur Champlain went to war  
against the Antouhonorons, where he took several Indian prisoners.
90. Very high waterfall at the head of Sault (qu. Lake?) St. Louis; descending  
which various sorts of fishes become dizzy. [Niagara.]

91. Small river near the Chaudiere rapid, where there is a waterfall nearly 20 fathoms high, which throws the water in such a volume and with such velocity, that it forms a very high arch, under which the savages pass for amusement without being wet; a thing pleasant to behold.
92. This river is very fine, and passes through a number of beautiful lakes and meadows by which it is bordered; a number of islands of various lengths and widths; abounding in deer and other animals; very good fishing of excellent fish, quantity of very good cleared lands, which have been abandoned by the savages on account of their wars. This River discharges into lake St. Louis, and divers Nations pass into these countries to hunt for their winter supplies. [River Trent, Canada West.]
93. Chestnut woods, where there are a great many chestnuts on the shore of lake St. Louis and numbers of meadows, vines and hickories. [Oswego.]
94. Species of salt water lakes at the head of la Baie Francoise, [B. of Fundy.] reached by the flux and reflux of the tide. There are islands with a number of birds and a quantity of meadows in those parts. Into these sorts of lakes discharge small rivers by which one can reach the Gulf of St. Lawrence, near the Island of St. John.
95. Isle Haute, one league in circumference, flat on the top, where there is fresh water and plenty of timber; one league distant from Port aux Mines and Cape des deux Bayes. It is more than 40 toises high on all sides, except one place which slopes where there is a triangular rocky point, and in the middle a pond of salt water and a number of birds that build their nests in this Island.
- † River of the Algonquins. [Ottawa.] From Sault St. Louis to near the lake of the Bissereens, there are more than 80 Rapids big and little, to be passed, either by land or by force of oars, or by towing on land by ropes. Some of these Rapids are very dangerous, especially coming down.

PETUN NATION is a tribe that cultivates that plant [Tobacco] in which they drive a considerable trade with the other nations. They have large villages, enclosed with timber and plant Indian corn.<sup>1</sup>

CHEVEUX RELEVEZ, are savages which do not wear a breech cloth and go quite naked except in winter when they cloth themselves in skins, which they lay aside going from home into the interior. They are great hunters, fishermen and voyageurs, cultivate the soil and plant Indian corn; dry blue and straw-

<sup>1</sup> Called by the French Quieunontates, Kionontates, or Tionontates; by the English, Dionondadies. It was one of the five confederated Huron Tribes. After the destruction of the Hurons by the Iroquois in 1649, a remnant of the Dionondadies took refuge among the Chippeways of Lake Superior, and are referred to in Dongan's time as in the vicinity of Michilimakinac. They removed afterwards to Detroit and are found in 1721, taking a leading part in the councils of the western tribes.

berries, in which they carry on a great trade with the other tribes, from whom they get in exchange, peltries, wampum, thread (filets) and other commodities. Some of these tribes pierce the nose from which they hang beads; cut the body in rays to which they apply charcoal and other colours; wear the hair very erect, which they grease and paint red as well as their faces.<sup>1</sup>

THE NEUTRAL NATION, is a tribe which maintains itself against all others and has no war except against the Assistaque-ronons. It is very powerful having forty villages thickly peopled.<sup>2</sup>

THE ANTOUHO-NORONS are 15 villages built in strong positions; enemies of all others except the Neutral nation; their country is fine and in a good climate near the river St Lawrence, the passage of which they block to all other nations, the consequence of which is that it is less frequented. They cultivate and plant their lands.

THE YROQUOIS and the Antouhonorons make war together against all the other nations, except the Neutral nation.

CARANTOUANIS is a nation to the south of the Antouhonorons in a very beautiful and rich country, where they are strongly lodged, and are friends with all the other nations except the Antouhonorons, from whom they are only three days distant. They formerly took prisoners from the Dutch, whom they sent back without doing them any injury, believing they were Frenchmen.

From Lake St. Louis to Sault St. Louis, which is the great river St. Lawrence, there are five rapids; quantity of beautiful

1 Sagart calls this tribe, the Andatahouats, who wear their hair topped up in front, "more erect than a lady's peruke."

2 The Neutral Nation were called Attiuoindas by the French. They were four or five days journey, says Sagart, south of the Quieunontates. Champlain locates them on the south shore of Lake Erie; but in subsequent maps they are laid down on the north shore. Sagart estimates the number of their warriors, in 1625, at 5 to 6,000, and says their country was nearly one hundred leagues in extent.

The Assistagué-eronons were called, also, the "Fire Nation;" Seesta, or Assista signifying, in the Huron tongue, *fire*, and Eronons, Nation or People. This nation was located in the country near the Great Lakes, where Charlevoix t. I., 447, mentions a tribe under the name of Mascontins, or *Nation du Feu*. In 1721, they were found in Wisconsin and the north of Illinois. The name Mascontin signifies literally, a *Prairie*. See Gallatin's Synopsis, 61.



lakes and fine islands ; the country agreeable and abounding in hunting and fishing ; fit to be settled were it not for the wars the Indians have the one against the other.

The *Mer douce* is a vast lake in which are an infinite number of Islands ; it is very deep and abounds with fish of all sorts and of a monstrous size which are caught at divers times and seasons as in the wide ocean. The south coast is much more agreeable than the north, where there is a quantity of rocks and a great many Elk (*Caribou*.)

Lake Bisserenis is very handsome having a circumference of 25 leagues and a number of islands full of trees, and meadows where the savages camp to fish in the river for sturgeon, pike and carp of monstrous size and very excellent ; they are caught in quantities ; game is also very abundant there, though the country is not very agreeable on account of the rocks in most places.

\* \* \* For the localities occupied by the several tribes above mentioned the reader is referred to Champlain's Map, accompanying this Vol.





